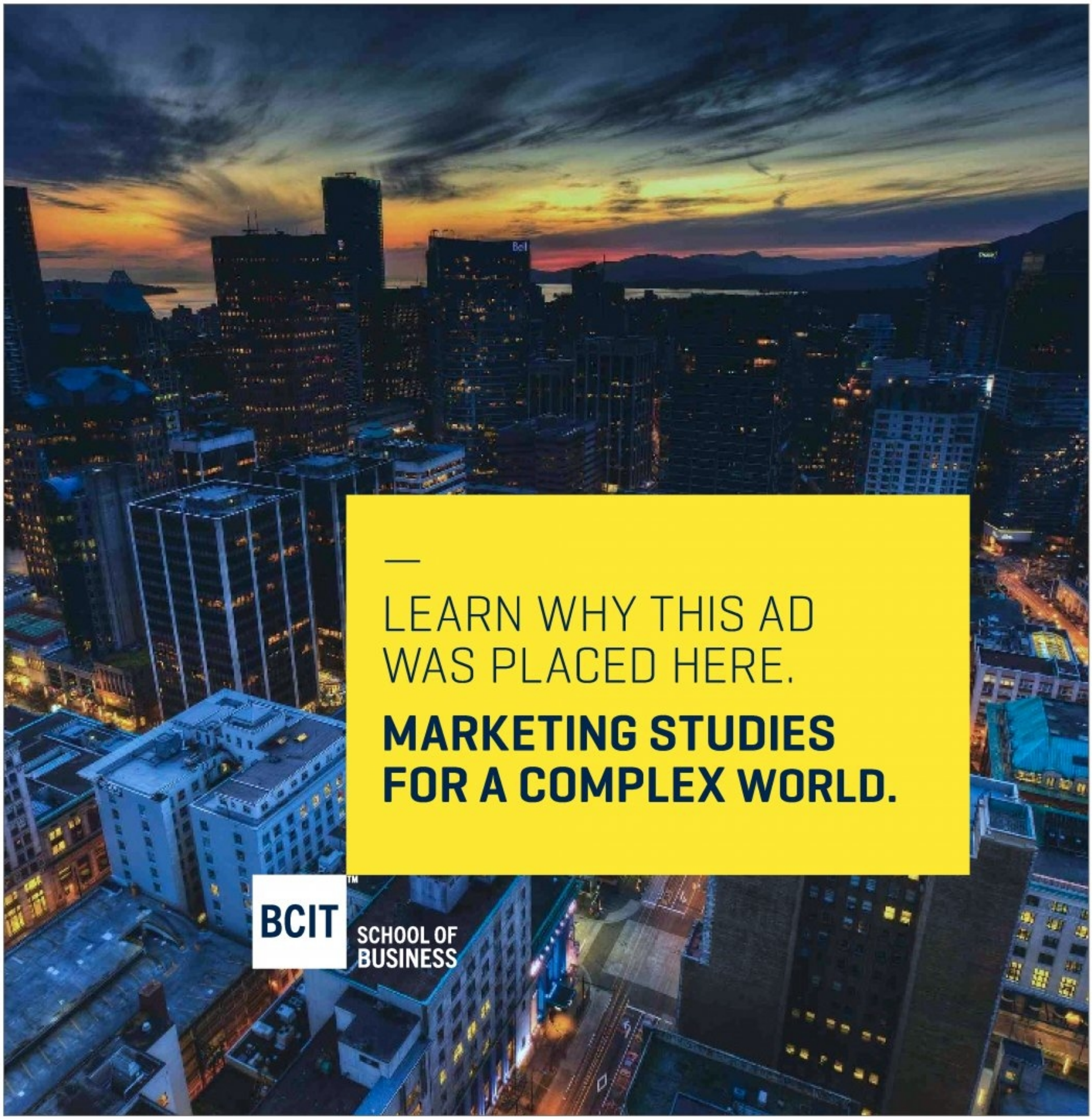
Vancouver metro

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2017



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VICKY MOCHAMA REFEREES
metroVIEWS

Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2017

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Vancouver lawyer Hasan Alam, a co-founder of the Lower Mainland B.C. group Critical Muslim Voices.
COURTESY TRACY GIESZ

'WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER'

Vancouver Muslims strategize against bigotry

metroNEWS

Oil lobbyists among $5M donations: Study

POLITICAL SCANDAL

Study 'maps' industry's gifts and lobbying

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

As a political scandal continues in Victoria over BC Liberal donations from corporate lobbyists, a veteran researcher in that city has zoomed in on one industry's own attempts to influence the government: fossil fuels.

On Wednesday, University of Victoria sociology professor Bill Carroll published the first results from two years spent sifting through thousands of political gifts and lobbyist meetings — and the results reveal extensive overlaps between the two.

"These very large corporations obviously have the ear of the government and are giving substantial funds, and quite the volume of lobbying," he told Metro in a phone interview. "It works out to 14 meetings per business day — nearly 20,000 contacts — over the six-year period we tracked, and over $5 million.

"We were able to track all that and map out a small world of corporate influence at the very top of the political power structure. It's very crowded at the top."

His study, titled Mapping Political Influence, is the first release from a six-year research project funded by the federal Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

He co-authored the peer-reviewed report with the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) B.C.

On Monday, Elections BC revealed it was investigating large donations made to the BC Liberals from corporate lobbyists, following Globe and Mail allegations that some were illegally repaid for personal donations.

Democracy Watch co-founder Duff Conacher told Metro it "amounts to a system of legalized bribery" in the province.

> It's a worrisome picture that really suggests a rather compromised democracy. Bill Carroll, University of Victoria

In the Legislature on Wednesday, Attorney General Suzanne Anton defended B.C.'s lobbyist rules, which she called "one of the strongest regimes" in the country.

"British Columbians should have confidence in the commitments that we've made, the steps that we've taken, so there is a strong lobbyist regime in the province so that people can know who the lobbyists are and who they're lobbying," she said

A day earlier, deputy premier Rich Coleman told reporters, "We have nothing that we have done wrong, nothing to hide from any inquiries Elections BC has."

According to Carroll's study, the top 10 donating oil and gas companies include ones hoping for the province to approve their energy projects, many of which have faced protests. Seven of those were also top lobbyists, the report found.

Meanwhile, according to the advocacy group Dogwood Initiative, Texas-based Kinder Morgan donated up to $771,168 to the BC Liberals prior to their approval of the controversial Trans Mountain Expansion Project on Jan. 11.

"Dogwood has written to (Elections B.C.) to request that Elections BC scrutinize donations made to both the BC Liberals and BC NDP by individuals connected to Kinder Morgan," a post on the group's website stated.

There is no evidence Kinder Morgan has broken any laws, however, or whether the company is even being investigated.

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Nike has unveiled a hijab for Muslim female athletes made of light, stretchy fabric. **World**

Quebec holds lessons on Uber

TRANSPORTATION

Economist says it's vital to create a level playing field

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

Most of B.C.'s proposed policies around ride-sharing make economic sense, according to a Montreal economist who has studied Uber's impact in Quebec, but one Vancouver city councillor disagrees.

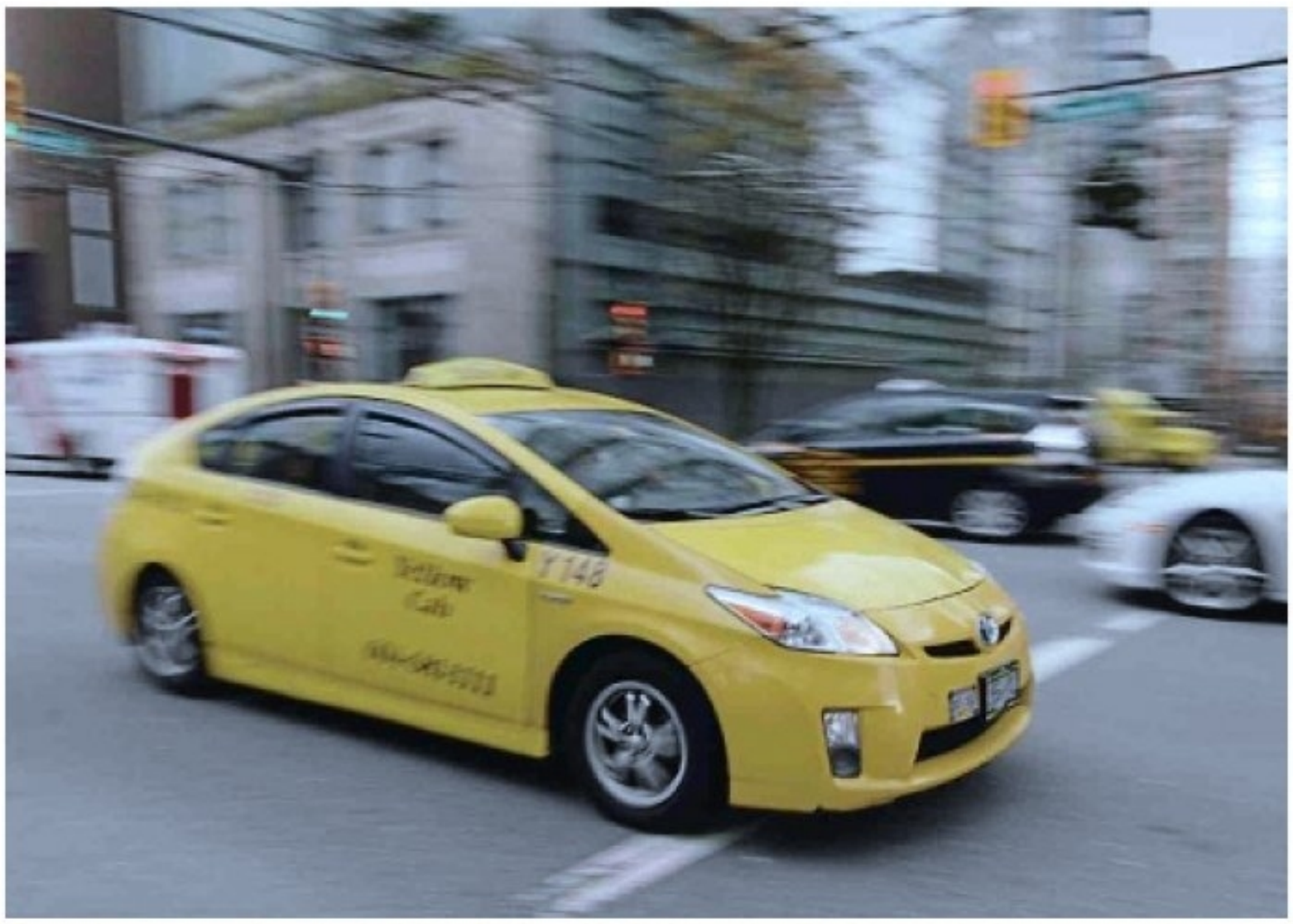
The B.C. government announced Tuesday it would welcome ride-share companies into the province by December 2017 if re-elected.

There are two key lessons B.C. can learn from Quebec's experience with Uber: create a level playing field and let the market decide whether disruptive technology is good or bad, said Germain Belzile, senior associate researcher at the Montreal Economic Institute.

Both of those lessons stem from the economist adage that competition is good for the consumer.

"One of the biggest gains we've seen in Montreal through competition with Uber is taxis in Montreal had the reputation of being very old and dirty," said Belzile. "Now, they've upped their game. Taxis are a little newer, and they clean them."

Belzile applauded the B.C. government's promise that it will reduce red tape for taxi drivers and take away territorial restrictions on taxi pick-up and drop-off. Those measures will help taxis compete effectively with rideshare companies, he said.



The province announced Tuesday that it intends to have ride-sharing services like Uber operating in Vancouver and competing with traditional taxis by the end of 2017. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

But he also warned policymakers against creating more rules than necessary because it ends up costing the consumer more. For instance, Quebec initially banned Uber from airports, but it created long waits for travellers and the province relented in December 2016.

> **Taxis in Montreal have upped their game.**
> Germain Belzile

"If you want to create a level playing field, don't (do) it by making things more difficult for the competitors," said Belzile.

But Uber may face more regulation in Vancouver, where council has not welcomed ride-sharing companies with open arms.

One councillor argues regulations can play an important role in providing consumer safety.

"In Vancouver we ask the drivers to go through a lot of criminal records checks, we asked them to have disability training and higher skills," said Coun. Geoff Meggs.

He added that the B.C. government's approach does not level the playing field but instead puts taxi drivers at a disadvantage. He called the government's announcement "a devastating blow for the taxi industry."

The proposed new B.C. rules for taxi and ride-share drivers do include a criminal record check but not disability training.

Meggs added that the city will not issue any new taxi licences for the time being.

The value of a taxi medallion in Quebec has gone down by 40 per cent since Uber came to town, according to Belzile. It's a sticking point for the province's taxi drivers, who filed a class-action lawsuit against Uber for the money they say they've lost since the ride-share company arrived in 2014.

The Vancouver Taxi Association has told media it will take the provincial government to court over its decision to welcome ride-share companies into the province.

Minister Peter Fassbender, who was in charge of the B.C. government's ride-share consultations, told reporters Tuesday the government has no plans to compensate taxi drivers for the potential lost value of their licences.

Belzile had some harsh words for the taxi industries mourning the demise of their monopoly.

"These things happen to private companies all the time," he said. "If I sell something and you start selling something better, then I'm going to lose my market. That's life."

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RELIGION

Jewish centre bomb threat part of a trend

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

INCIDENT

Canada has not been immune from violence against minorities:

- In January, six people at a mosque in Quebec were killed by an assailant who police have said identified with extreme right-wing white nationalism.

The executive director of Vancouver's Jewish Community Centre says he hoped this city would not be affected by a wave of violent threats against Jewish institutions over the past several weeks.

But yesterday, the centre was evacuated after receiving a bomb threat via email at 9 p.m.

Vancouver police were called and are now investigating the incident. No bomb was found on-site and patrons returned to the centre a short time later.

"It's very uncommon" for the Jewish Community Centre at Oakridge and 41st Aveune to receive a threat like this, said Eldad Goldfarb, executive director of the centre.

"On the other hand there's a trend in North America that hundreds of bomb threats have been made in the last few weeks to Jewish Community Centres and day schools.

"We were kind of hopeful that it wouldn't reach Vancouver, but it has."

There has also been an increase in threats made against Jewish organizations in Europe, Goldfarb added.

All the threats have so far been hoaxes. But with the rise in white nationalist, anti-immigrant political parties in the United States and Europe, there has been an increase in threats and violence against minorities.

Vancouver's JCC is affiliated with a North America-wide network of Jewish Community Centres, which is headquartered in New York.

The Jewish Community Centre Association has been tracking each of the threats and communicating updates and advice on "how to get back to normal," Goldfarb said.

Before the bomb threat, staff at the Jewish Community Centre had been working with the VPD to be extra prepared in case of a threat: staff had been doing emergency preparedness drills and other training, Goldfarb said.

Rising open intolerance towards religious or ethnic minorities threatens the Canadian "way of life," he warned.

"We pride ourselves on being a multicultural country and very tolerant towards different minorities and different religions," Goldfarb said.

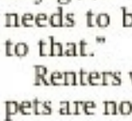
"I think incidents like this, threats made to any institution, not just the Jewish community institutions, are harming (the) very fabric of our society."

> **"I think incidents like this, threats made to any institution, not just the Jewish community institutions, are harming the very fabric of our society.** Eldad Goldfarb

Pet-friendly rentals harmful: Landlords

HOUSING MARKET

Board argues legislation would lower vacancy rates



Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

An advocacy group for pet owners want B.C. to change its rental laws that currently allow landlords to discriminate against renters who have pets. GETTY IMAGES

Landlords should not be forced to rent to pet owners because that kind of legislation would make rental vacancy rates even lower than they already are, says Landlord BC.

Some pet owners started a campaign last month to put an end to "no pet" clauses in B.C.'s rental agreements, calling the practice discriminatory. But an association representing the province's landlords says such a law could have unintended consequences that would make the situation worse for all renters.

"I'm empathetic to the situation but … I'm also very concerned that this is just the wrong time to do anything that would discourage people from being landlords," said David Hutniak, CEO of Landlord BC.

"The more demands we put on that rental market … they're just going to get out of business. That doesn't do any good for anybody. There needs to be more sensitivity to that."

Renters who happen to have pets are not the only ones who have trouble finding a place to live, he pointed out. With vacancy rates hovering around one per cent in Vancouver and Victoria, many renters struggle to find an affordable home.

"We have a supply risk here and we need to build more," said Hutniak.

He wants to see the government encourage the construction of more purpose-built rental.

"What's interesting is when we see the new product come online, they are increasingly pet-friendly buildings, which is a business decision made by these developers."

That's a better solution than putting the burden of allowing pets onto individual landlords, he said.

The secondary rental market, made up of secondary units like basement suites, is especially susceptible to anything that makes life harder for the landlord, he explained. Many landlords are already listing their secondary suites on Airbnb instead, he said.

But organizers of the campaign to create more pet-friendly rental laws argue that B.C. could base its rental rules on Ontario, where the "no pets" clause has been banned from rental agreements for more than 20 years.

Hutniak, who is also chair of the national association of landlords, says the rental laws in Ontario are nothing to brag about.

"That's not the model to point to," he said.

While landlords are sensitive to the reality that most pet owners are responsible and good tenants, there are still many who are not, he said.

"I assure you, there isn't a single rental housing provider who is enthusiastic about having to be forced to allow pets on their property."

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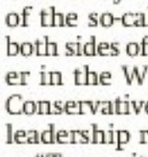
Vancouver Muslims unite against rising bigotry

COMMUNITY

Group hosts event Friday to strategize and support



David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

"It's incredibly scary to think that, when I walk out the door every day — even though I don't wear hijab and I am not identifiably Muslim— I could still be targeted," explained Vancouver radio producer Abeer Yusuf.

She is one of the estimated 75,000 residents of Vancouver who identify as Muslim, according to the 2011 National Household Survey, a small fraction of Canada's estimated one million Muslims.

Though the community's B.C. numbers are small, many were nonetheless devastated by the Jan. 29 massacre in which a white supremacist opened fire on worshippers praying in a Quebec City mosque, killing six.

But the massacre didn't come from out of the blue, Yusuf said. Islamophobia — prejudice against Muslims and people seen as Muslim — is on the rise in both Canada and the U.S., evidenced by the growing power of the so-called "alt-right" on both sides of the border, whether in the White House or the Conservative Party of Canada's leadership race.

"To see it come to the forefront in such bizarre ways, and to see people wanting to hurt me because I believe in one belief system, engage in prayers five times a day, or read the Quran … how does that mean I'm not worth giving dignity and rights to?" she asked.

Abeer Yusuf is a member of Critical Muslim Voices, who is inviting Muslims to meet at SFU for prayers and support. DAVID P. BALL/METRO

> **Every Muslim person is affected by this … I feel the same hurt, fear and complete helplessness.**
> Abeer Yusuf, Critical Muslim Voices

Yusuf is a member of Critical Muslim Voices, and on Friday evening they are inviting Muslims to gather together at Simon Fraser University Woodward's downtown to share in sunset prayers, mutual support, and to strategize ways to challenge Islamophobia as a community.

"Every Muslim person is affected by this," she explained. "We're wondering, is there a way to seek community — a safe space to come together to ask, 'What can we do together to work with other communities and give ourselves an opportunity to grieve and process.

"We want to share with other Muslims, 'You're not in this alone, we're all in this together.'"

According to fellow group member Hasan Alam — a Vancouver lawyer and one of Critical Muslim Voices' co-founders — many feel that Canada's media outlets and politicians moved on "way too quickly" to other subjects after the Quebec massacre.

In fact, days after the massacre, Quebec's Legislature debated banning religious symbols in public, often seen as a veiled reference to some Muslims' head coverings. And this week saw Montreal universities targeted with bomb threats against Muslim students.

"We recognize the central role our allies will continue to play against Islamophobia — Muslims can't take that on, on our own," Alam said. "But for this first dialogue, we want people to feel safe and among people who have actually experienced Islamophobia, and you have to be Muslim to know what it feels like on a daily basis."

Friday's town hall will be held 6 to 9 p.m. at Djavad Mowafaghian World Art Centre at Simon Fraser University Woodward's (149 West Hastings St.).

IMMIGRATION

Calls to reverse deport

Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen is facing calls to reverse the deportation of a 59-year-old man with bipolar disorder who lived in Canada since he was eight months old.

Len Van Heest of Courtney, B.C., was deported to the Netherlands this week after a string of criminal convictions for uttering threats, mischief and assault that his lawyer says were linked to his mental illness.

His brother Daniel Van Heest expressed his anger at judges and immigration officials who allowed the deportation to happen. He said his brother is now in the care of family in the Netherlands with the help of the Salvation Army.

"Needless to say his mental faculties have been stressed to the max," he said. "The system is skewed. Mentally ill people should never be deported. It is wrong."

Lawyer Peter Golden said Van Heest's parents didn't seek citizenship for him. The last time he was in the Netherlands he was in diapers, he doesn't speak Dutch and doesn't know his relatives there.

Van Heest was diagnosed with bipolar disorder when he was 16, said Golden. By the time he was old enough to seek citizenship for himself, he had a criminal record and could not apply.

In January, a Federal Court judge rejected Van Heest's challenge of a Canada Border Services Agency officer refusing to defer his removal order. Last week he lost a last-ditch attempt for a stay, and on Monday he was deported to Amsterdam.

"The criminal justice system isn't designed to deal with people like Len," said Golden.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada was unable to respond to questions Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

No 'clear plan' for homeless

HOUSING

Experts say data can't be used to help those suffering

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

A regional homeless count that happens once every three years is expected to show a dramatic increase in the number of people sleeping outside, in shelters and in vehicles across Metro Vancouver.

But the head of the non-profit organization that is carrying out the survey acknowledges that the snapshot-in-time count "undercounts dramatically" the number of people who struggle with homelessness.

"People move in and out of homelessness, it's much more dynamic than that," said Kishone Roy, executive director of the BC Non-Profit Housing Association.

"Since we're not keeping the name and locations of the individuals, we can't use this data to directly help any individual."

A regional homeless count held March 7 and 8 is expected to show a large increase in the number of people living outside. RAFE ARNOTT/METRO FILE

The City of Vancouver, which does an annual homeless count, last year found that homelessness had risen to a 10-year high in the city. Metro Vancouver expects 4,000 people — a 44 per cent increase compared with the 2014 count — to be identified as homeless in the region.

Over 1,200 volunteers conducted the count on March 7 and 8, with results expected to be published April 4. This year the count expanded to include Lower Mainland waterways, where, the regional district believes, some people are making a makeshift home aboard derelict boats.

"As we talk to people around the province, there are more and more people living in alternative housing," Roy said. "They may not be a homeowner or a renter but may end up being in a houseboat or a camper van."

The Metro Vancouver housing market, where both home prices and rents have risen dramatically over the past two years, is the key reason homeless rates have risen, Roy said.

The BC Non-Profit Housing Association plans to publish a second report in mid-April that brings together homeless count data, a rental housing affordability index, demographic projection and the condition of rental and social housing. The plan is to pull out of that data an affordable housing plan.

"I think government is lacking a clear plan, and when I say that I mean the federal, provincial and municipal governments," Roy said.

"I think it'll be really helpful for politicians. I don't think they understand the full size and scope of it, or have a collaborative plan."

Women in film celebrated

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

The 12th annual Vancouver International Women in Film Festival opened Wednesday at Vancity Theatre with a short film showcase, as well as screenings of Unveiled: The Kohistan Video Scandal and an Indigenous women in film series.

The five-day festival is organized by Women in Film and Television Vancouver, who say women make up just four per cent of directors of feature films, as well as only 11 per cent of screenwriters. "Each film screened includes women in at least three of the key creative roles, be it writer, director, producer, cinematographer, lead performer, editor or composer," the festival website states.

Thursday's events include a screening of the feature film On the Farm (Unclaimed), a fictional account of Indigenous women living in the Downtown Eastside battling to have police investigate the whereabouts of their missing loved ones years before serial killer Robert Pickton was arrested for some of the murders.

A 'glorious sight'

PARLIAMENT

Young women from all over country take over The House

Srosh Hassana delivers a statement during a Daughters of the Vote event, organized by Equal Voice Canada, in the House of Commons Hill in Ottawa on Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

It never occurred to Khadija Waseem that she would want to run for office one day. Not until she found herself launching a hard-nosed, double-barrel question at Prime Minister Justin Trudeau from a corner of the House of Commons.

"The first 25 seconds were of sheer, overwhelming awe," she recalled Wednesday, just a few hours after her impromptu parliamentary debut, when she raised her hand and was chosen to ask Trudeau a question.

She pushed him to tell her how he would combat Islamophobia and what he is doing to address the mental health needs of indigenous youth.

"In that moment, I realized that if you don't ask this, nobody will," said Waseem, a 20-year-old University of Toronto student. "That is a huge gravity on your shoulders, but also an honour and a privilege."

It was one of many similar epiphanies to emerge from Ottawa on Wednesday. Thanks to an initiative called Daughters of the Vote, every seat from every riding in the House of Commons, if only for a brief time, belonged to a young woman. They came from all over the country to take over Parliament for International Women's Day.

The delegates were treated to invocations of Nellie McClung and the women's rights struggle from Opposition Leader Rona Ambrose. They took advice from Canada's only female prime minister (so far), Kim Campbell. And, yes, they got to grill the country's current feminist PM, who pointed out that the 338 women assembled in the House represented a group larger than all the women ever elected to Ottawa.

Since Confederation 150 years ago, there have only been 315 female MPs in the House of Commons. Campbell, speaking to the women from the floor of the House, called it a "glorious sight."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EDMONTON

Woman's arms broken in road-rage incident

Edmonton police say they are investigating lots of tips as they search for a man who is accused of breaking a woman's arms with a crowbar in a vicious road rage attack.

Police spokesman Scott Pattison says it appears the man was aiming for the women's head Tuesday morning in a quiet residential neighbourhood.

"It is alleged the male suspect was swinging for her head and she blocked the swing," he said Wednesday. "That is what we believe."

Police say the woman honked her horn as she was passing a car that was stopped in the street.

When she got out of her vehicle, police say, the man ran up to her, striking her arms with a crowbar. "She has had multiple breaks in both arms — very significant breaks," Pattison said.

"No road rage is acceptable, but when you have a mother who was just on her way home after dropping off her husband at work when she encountered this violent individual, you know it gives us all pause in the police service," Pattison said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HALIFAX

Former taxi driver accuser 'sickened' by his acquittal

A woman who accused Bassam Al-Rawi of sex assault in 2012 says she is "sickened" by his acquittal in a recent trial. The now-32-year-old woman told CBC News she sees "a deliberate pattern of behaviour to prey on vulnerable women looking to get home safely."

The woman alleges being a taxi passenger of Al-Rawi's and intoxicated when she was driven to an apartment where she was sexually assaulted. Al-Rawi was not charged.

The alleged incident is mentioned in a search warrant application for the recent 2015 case. The warrant also refers to an alleged incident from 2014, when a woman contacted police about Al-Rawi's suspicious behaviour. METRO

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Fearless Girl stares down charging bull

WOMEN'S DAY

Iconic Wall St. animal meets its match in new statue

'The Fearless Girl' stands across from the iconic Wall Street charging bull statue in New York on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A new statue of a resolute young girl now faces Wall Street's famous Charging Bull, erected by a major asset managing firm for International Women's Day to make a point: There's a dearth of women on the boards of the largest U.S. corporations.

State Street Global Advisors, the Boston-based investment giant, had the statue created to push companies to increase the number of women directors.

Artist Kristen Visbal's "Fearless Girl" drew crowds Wednesday that initially came to pose for pictures with the bull, but the novelty quickly became a New York hot spot.

The girl, sculpted in bronze, appears to be staring down the bronze bull, her hands firmly planted on her waist, pony-tailed head held high.

"Know the power of women in leadership. SHE makes a difference," reads a plaque at her feet.

Twenty-five per cent of the Russell 3000 — an index of the nation's largest companies — have no women on their boards, according to State Street, which manages many of their assets.

According to ISS Analytics, a business research firm, just 16 per cent of board seats on companies in the Russell 3000 are held by women; the average board of directors has eight men and one woman.

This week, McCann New York, a top advertising agency, installed the statue of the girl before dawn Tuesday, with a city permit for one week. Negotiations are underway for the piece to remain longer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

150 WAYS of looking at Canada

POSTCARD NO. 37

POMQUET, ANTIGONISH COUNTY, NS

THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN IN THE SPRING TIME OF LAST YEAR IN BEAUTIFUL POMQUET, ANTIGONISH CO., N.S. I GREW UP IN THIS SMALL ACADIAN COMMUNITY AND IT WAS THE HOT SPOT ALL SUMMER LONG. I WOULD SPEND COUNTLESS HOURS AT A TIME HERE. SO PEACEFUL AND QUIET. MY HAPPY PLACE. **APRIL BOWMAN**

SEND US YOUR POSTCARD

Each day until July 1, Metro will feature one reader's postcard in print and online. Get involved by sending us a photo of your favourite place in Canada along with 25 to 50 words about why that place is special to you. Email us at **scene@metronews.ca** or post to Instagram or Twitter with the hashtag **#150postcards**.

IN BRIEF

Nike unveils athletic hijab

Nike has unveiled a hijab for Muslim female athletes. The Nike Pro Hijab has been in development for a year, the company said. Athletes contributed input into the product, and figure skater Zahra Lari was among those who tested it.

The pull-on hijab is made of light, stretchy fabric that includes tiny holes for breathability and an elongated back so it will not come untucked.

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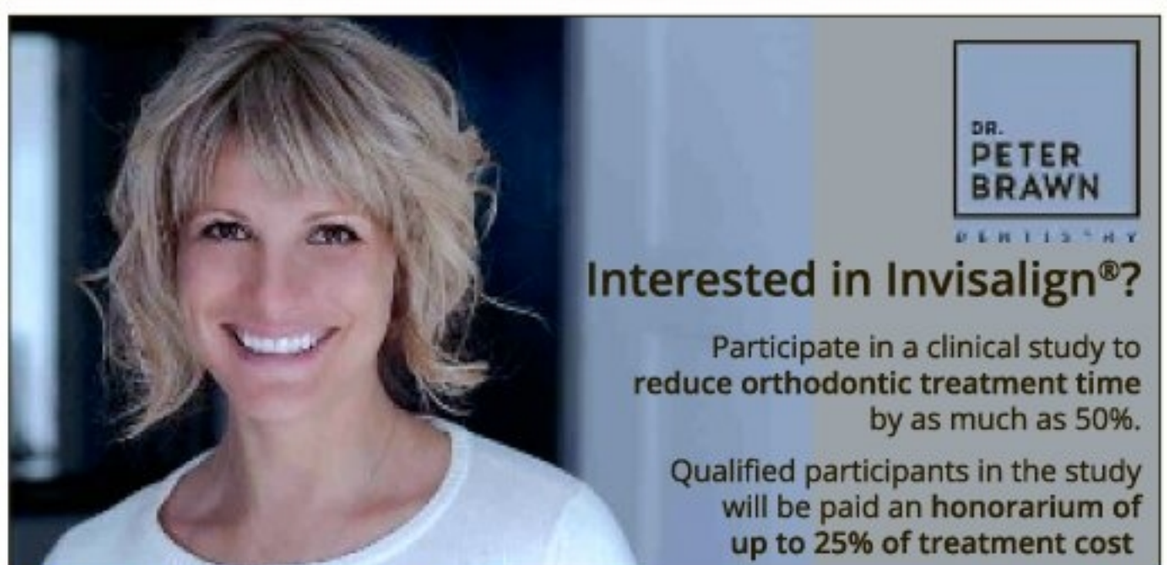

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metro VIEWS

Your essential daily news

Thursday, March 9, 2017

CHANTAL HÉBERT ON THE FEDERAL BUDGET

Is Trudeau taking political cover behind the Trump White House?

Over his first 15 months as a rookie MP and Canada's finance minister, Bill Morneau has mastered the art of the platitude. That could come in handy when he presents his second budget later this month.

It does not matter what curve balls his opposition critics throw at him in question period these days, his answers never stray from the generic talking points that usually pass for government responses in the House of Commons.

Morneau is no more enlightening in his exchanges with the media.

About the budget he is set to unveil on March 22, the minister had this to say Tuesday: "We want to move forward on our agenda and continue to be ambitious in helping Canadians."

In the case of budget 2017, discretion may well be the better part of valour.

Based on the government's pre-budget chatter, this year's installment is not destined to be a watershed document.

For weeks, Liberal spin doctors have been dampening expectations. To hear them, it would be best to treat the second budget of the Trudeau era as a non-event.

It is widely expected to leave more questions unanswered about the fiscal course of the government than it addresses.

Morneau and others point south of the border and blame the uncertainty that is attending the arrival in the White House of an unpredictable administration to account for the government's tentative approach to its upcoming budget.

Indeed, since Trump's inauguration, the finance minister has spent an unusual amount of time in the U.S. on what the government has described as fact-finding missions.

There is no doubt that Donald Trump's presidency is a wild card about whose impact it is hard to come to an informed assessment.

But it is also true that it offers convenient cover for a government that is as long on ambitious talk as it is short on revenues to finance its promises.

Long before Trump's potential arrival in the White House was seen as a credible threat, it was clear that whatever big-ticket items had not made it into last year's first Liberal budget would be unlikely to find pride of place in subsequent ones.

The sluggishness of the world economy precedes Trump's victory. So do the forecasts for a string of double-digit federal deficits that could easily stretch — if you believe Canada's parliamentary budget office — into the next mandate and beyond.

Morneau did not wait for Trump to win to start to shovel some federal spending forward.

Take health care. To make the pill of a 50 per cent reduction in the rate of increase of the health transfer to the provinces easier to swallow, the federal government upped its offer of more cash for mental health and homecare services last fall.

In total, it is committed to sweetening the provincial pot to the tune of about $12 billion dollars over 10 years.

But the six provinces that have signed accords with Ottawa so far will see little of that funding upfront.

Based on the one-on-one deals negotiated to date, Le Devoir extrapolated that Ottawa is poised to hand over not 10 per cent but rather less than 3 per cent of the 10-year envelope over the coming fiscal year.

It is not just on the budgetary front that the Trudeau government may be overstating Trump's impact on Canadian policy for its own reasons.

Take the refugees that have been showing up in greater numbers at various points along the border. Trump's determination to ban citizens from a handful of Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States has propelled them into the spotlight.

But when the Canadian Press investigated the phenomenon, it found that the trigger for the steady increase in the number of people crossing into Canada to apply for refugee status was Trudeau's arrival in power and the adoption of a more pro-refugee federal tone.

There is a legitimate government discussion to be had over the impact of Trump's agenda on Canada's economy and a prudent government would keep its options open enough to be able to adjust to whatever challenges arise from the policies of the new U.S. administration.

But it is nevertheless fair to ask whether the Trump White House is providing the Trudeau government with much-needed political cover for problems of its own making.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column is in Metro every Thursday.

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Welcome to Feminist In-Fight where I, Vicky Mochama, put two feminist forces in the Equality Death Cage.

THIS WEEK:

EMMA **WATSON** VS BEYONCÉ'S **BEY HIVE**

THE FEUD

After critics attacked **Emma Watson** for showing underboob in a Vanity Fair photoshoot, she responded by saying "Feminism is not a stick with which to beat other women." **Beyoncé fans,** more commonly known as **the Beyhive,** seized on the apparent hypocrisy. The fans, somewhat of a proxy for the notoriously media shy super star, pulled up a Watson quote from 2014 in which she questioned how Beyoncé could count herself a feminist while at the same time making sexy music videos.

Wins to Their Name	
UN Women Goodwill Ambassador	Made Beyoncé the highest-paid black musician in history
Other Victories	
Played Hermione and got to punch Draco Malfoy	Can count Meryl Streep and the entire Obama family among their ranks
Notable Quotables	
"If I was going to be a princess, I'd be a warrior princess."	"It's Beyonce's World and we are just living in it." - Anderson Cooper (Beyhive member)
You Don't Want This Trouble	
Has the might of the United Nations behind her	Has the might to flood your social media feeds with lemon emojis
On Defence	
Watson's full quote begins: "I'm quite nervous to bring it up because I still haven't really formulated by my own ideas about it..." So she knew she was on shaky territory, but still tried thinking out loud.	Prominent feminists constantly go after Beyoncé for not being the perfect feminist, and that gets tiring. Black feminists are especially tired. Like, Rip Van Winkle Tired.

Vicky, In Charge of Feminism, Decides

The Beyhive wins. The Hive always wins.

Credit to Emma Watson for engaging with the criticism by posting the full interview, but the United Nations can't handle the co-ordination of the Beyhive. They are a digital Swiss Guard who will die defending Beyoncé; Hermione fans could never.

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THE TIME IS ALWAYS RIGHT TO DO THE RIGHT THING." MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

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DAILYHIVE

Join us March 11th at these locations at Noon

Roundhouse Community Centre
181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver
Event starts at 1PM

Terry Salman Branch
4575 Clancy Loranger Way, Vancouver

Surrey Public Library
10350 University Drive, Surrey

The Sea wall White Rock

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ADVERTORIAL

OVERCOMING RACISM ONE HAND AT A TIME

On March 11th, Spice Radio will hold its third annual Hands Against Racism event, which will culminate in speeches, events, and an awards ceremony at the Roundhouse Community Centre, from 1-4pm.

Long celebrated as a cultural mosaic, it's hard to imagine that racism still exists in Canada. When considering the topic, Canadians can't help looking south towards our gregarious neighbour, where race relations and cultural identity seem to have hit a metaphorical boiling point.

Compared to the United States, where clashes are often dramatic and violent, Canada looks like a benevolent Shangri-La. But that's not to say racism doesn't exist. Rather, it manifests in subtler forms—shirty remarks, wage discrepancies, and hiring biases. For example, in a field experiment published by the University of Toronto in 2011, approximately 8000 resumes were sent to employers in Canada's three largest cities. The results revealed that regardless of work experience, language proficiency, or education, people with traditional English names were 35% more likely to get a call-back.

Racism may not be an overt problem, but Canadians will have to shuck their well-known cloak of civility in order to tackle what could be a sleeping giant. Like most things, fixing a problem requires acknowledging it exists in the first place. A national survey conducted by Nanos Research in 2016 revealed that 7 in 10 people felt like "there was a lot of racism in Canada," while 1 in 4 had experienced derogatory remarks based on race.

The good news is that Canadians remain an optimistic bunch. 8 out of 10 believe that education will help make people more tolerant and accepting—and that's where campaigns like Hands Against Racism come into play.

As an initiative started by Spice Radio 1200 AM in Vancouver, the station sets aside time each year to interview interesting people extensively involved in promoting equality and tolerance. Guests this year have included union activist Kombii Nanjalah, Salish poet Kat Norris, RCMP officer Baltej Singh Dhillon, and former White Aryan Resistance member Tony McAleer.

Hands Against Racism is about recognizing discrimination in its various forms, and attempting to make things better—for all Canadians. The idea of collecting handprints and messages of hope is inspired by the Hindu festival of Holi, also known as the Festival of Love. By dousing each other with brightly coloured powder and water, colour and race become obscured. Differences are forgotten. Humanness is celebrated.

Canada is making strides towards equality and tolerance. With a recent announcement from the Mint, civil rights activist Viola Desmond not only found a place on the $10 bill, but became a household name. While this may seem trivial, understanding that trailblazers of all cultures and colours have contributed to Canada's national identity is a positive and significant step to ending racial discrimination.

Freshslice Pizza, joined the campaign this year as major campaign sponsor who will be promoting awareness at restaurants across the province and incenting customers to take the Selfie Callenge through a special instore promotion.

- NITA NAIDOO

On March 11th, give us a hand. Come down to the Roundhouse from 1 to 4pm—or take a selfie with your hand raised and tag it #handsagainstracism.

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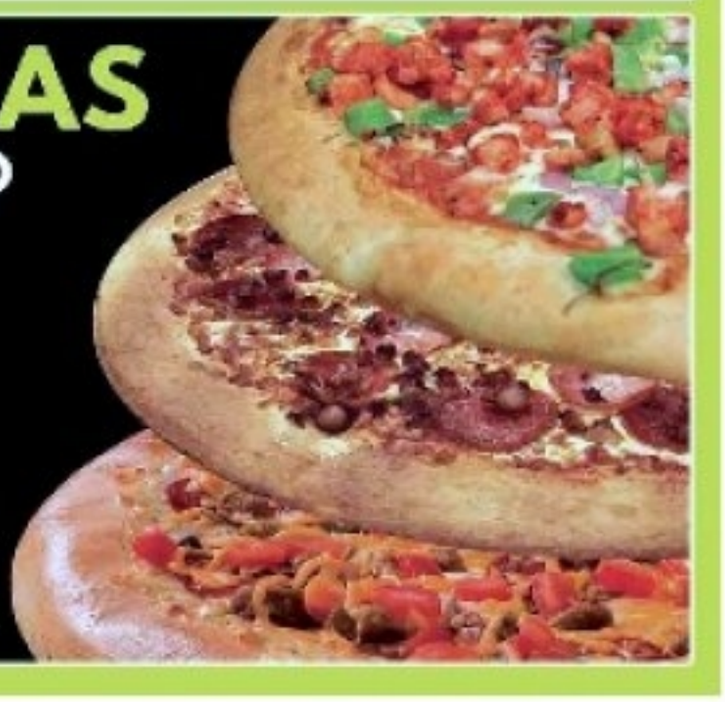

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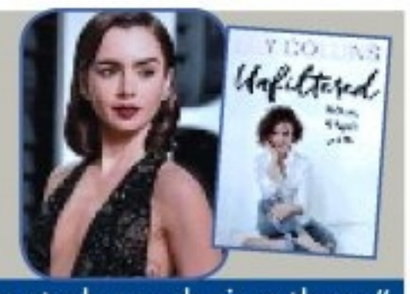


In her new book, Lily Collins forgives her father, Phil Collins, for "not always being there"

Hard Powder, an action movie in the early stages of production, had applied to Parks Canada for permission to film some scenes in Banff, above, and the Columbia Icefields. GETTY IMAGES

Film barred over First Nations storyline

MOVIES

Parks Canada blocks shoot in Banff after concerns raised

A movie production team was denied permission to shoot in the Rocky Mountain national parks after Parks Canada staff learned the film's plot involved an Indigenous gang leader.

"They expressed a real concern that this was not something they would favour," said Mark Voyce, location manager for a film project that had been scheduled to start shooting later this month.

Voyce is working for Michael Shamberg, a film producer whose past credits include movies such as Erin Brockovich, A Fish Called Wanda, Garden State, Gattaca and Get Shorty.

Shamberg is currently working on a project called Hard Powder, a crime drama ostensibly set in a Colorado ski town.

Action star Liam Neeson is to play an honest snowplow driver whose son is murdered by a local drug kingpin. He then seeks to dismantle the cartel, but his efforts spark a turf war involving a First Nations gang boss, played by First Nations actor, musician and Order of Canada member Tom Jackson.

Director Hans Petter Moland had hoped to shoot scenes in Banff, the Lake Louise townsite and ski hill, and the Columbia Icefields.

"He was enamoured of the beauty of the Columbia Icefields," Voyce said. "He was very stubborn in insisting that if we were going to come here, that it was to shoot parts of these films in the national park."

Voyce, who has previously organized movie shoots in national parks from Newfoundland's Gros Morne to Pacific Rim on Vancouver Island, said the team began the application process with Parks Canada in December. He said he believed that by last week, only a few details needed to be cleaned up and that permissions would be granted. Then, late last week, came a phone call.

"They phoned and asked, 'Is the leader of the rival gang in this picture First Nations?' We said yes. That became an obvious last nail in the coffin for us," he said.

"They didn't want to offend anybody. They (said they) would get back to us, but they had grave concerns over subject matter. They told us that in almost exactly those words."

On Monday, Voyce received a letter from Parks Canada listing eight requirements, including the possible need for an environmental assessment.

"We're looking to start filming on March 20 and can't really push our schedule," he said. "That, frankly, is a death blow for us."

Voyce said much of the information requested was included in the original application.

In an email, Parks Canada confirmed it has concerns over the script.

"The Government of Canada is committed to reconciliation and nation-to-nation relationships with Indigenous peoples, based on a recognition of rights, respect, co-operation and partnership," said the response from spokeswoman Meaghan Bradley.

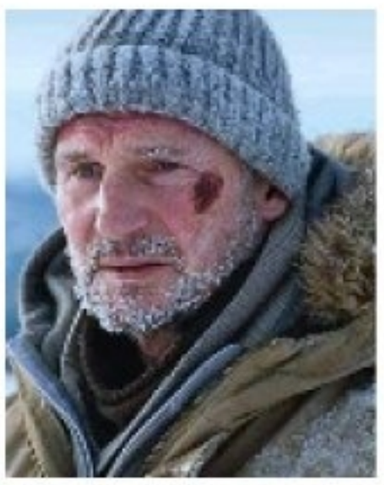
"In addition to some administrative details and outstanding documentation, Parks Canada's commitment to reconciliation and respect for Indigenous peoples was an important factor in the agency's final decision on this matter. Parks Canada maintains the right to refuse applications that are not in line with Parks Canada's mandate or operational priorities."

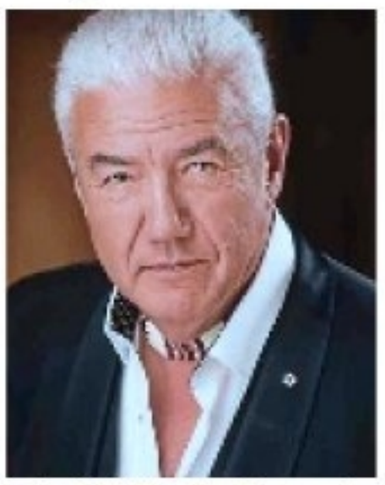
Such decisions are made locally by staff at the parks where the request is made, said Bradley.

The decision was made despite a letter of support from Jackson.

"As a consultant to this production, I have taken a strong stance to ensure that the humility and integrity of First Nation roles do not cross the line of disrespect to my culture. I don't feel my culture is insulted even slightly by the script," he wrote.

"Hard Powder will be made regardless. The question is whether we deprive our own, or do we harvest for our own?"





Actors Liam Neeson, seen here in the 2011 film The Grey, and Tom Jackson star in Hard Powder. HANDOUT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Parks Canada receives many film requests every year and says it's not possible to accommodate them all. The mountain parks have a long history with movie and TV production, running from 1954's Marilyn Monroe-Robert Mitchum film River of No Return to scenes this year filmed for the popular series Game of Thrones. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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With the internet, you can yell at me and it costs you nothing. I don't know what they can say that I haven't heard already.
Scaachi Koul

Scaachi Koul says One Day We'll All Be Dead and None of This Will Matter is "a lot about loneliness." CONTRIBUTED

What matters in a 'garbage soul'

NON-FICTION

Scaachi Koul's 'catalogue of misery' sure to strike a chord

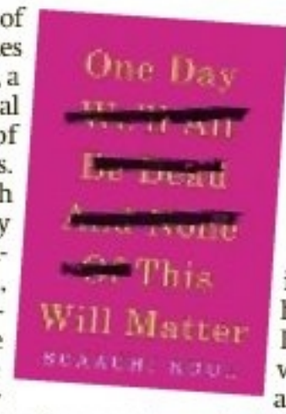
Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

Scaachi Koul didn't set out to write One Day We'll All Be Dead and None of This Will Matter. She began working on her personal essay collection two years ago, at age 24, intending the book — which she refers to as "a catalogue of misery" — to be a much lighter read. But when Koul's editors at Doubleday Canada pushed her to dig deeper into her "garbage soul," the underlying tenor of the book shifted.

"It's a lot about loneliness and trying to make a connection, and it's a lot about how your history informs where you're going," Koul says. "I'm happy where it went, but sometimes you do need an editor to tell you that you don't have to be glib all the time. That was a hard lesson for me."

Those who follow Koul's work as an editor at BuzzFeed or on Twitter know that she's an all-caps force who doesn't suffer fools or anonymous online trolls gladly.

The sly, cutting sarcasm — and the misery — still reverberate through One Day We'll All Be Dead, but they've been tempered, leaving breathing room for Koul to share more vulnerable observations of her life and her roles as a young woman, a girlfriend, a best pal and a daughter of Indian immigrants. She wrestles with Western beauty standards and ethnic stereotypes, and the horrifying reality of rape and surveillance culture, familiar to any woman who has spent a night at a bar watching her drink in fear of getting roofied.



"It's much easier to write down an anxiety or a fear you have, but then cut the tension with a joke. There are portions of the book where I didn't do that. People were telling me sometimes you have to let a moment land," says Koul, who describes the feeling of releasing the book as being akin to photocopying your diary and handing it over to a gang of junior-high girls.

"As much as my instincts were telling me to say, 'Here's a terrible thing that happened, but don't worry, everything's fine,' that's not always the right move. Writing generally is an exercise in being insecure. Of course, it feels uncomfortable and exposing."

Koul also didn't anticipate that her relationship with her family would become the heart of One Day We'll All Be Dead. Each chapter opens with an email exchange with her father, whose own surly charm will be familiar to anyone who follows Koul on Twitter. Although Koul talks about the specific ways in which she's inherited her parents' anxieties and the generational disconnect she feels as a child of immigrants, there's a universal quality to her interactions with her family that is reminiscent of American humorist and essayist David Sedaris, whose writing she loved from a young age.

"I have to write like they're already dead, otherwise every essay will come out as very stilted. I'm sure there's stuff that will make them uncomfortable reading it," Koul says. "I don't think my dad wants to read a chapter about my pubic hair, so I won't recommend it. My mom will read it and she'll cry, but she'll get over it."

One group of readers that Koul isn't worried about is the legion of online trolls that have been harassing her for the past few years. In One Day We'll All Be Dead she covers the personal toll the threats have caused, but says she doesn't expect that they'll actually make an effort to buy, let alone even pick up her book.

"There's a fee to enter. With the internet, you can yell at me and it costs you nothing and so that's where they live," she says. "I'm not super-concerned, and at this point, I don't know what they can say that I haven't heard already. Do your best. What can you say at this point to take this away from me?"

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

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metro HOME

Your essential daily news

Sold in 2000 for $560,000, Bob Dylan's Harlem townhouse now listed at $3.5M US

MEET THE CONDO

Prescott mixes luxury with affordability

CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

Prescott Commons by Polygon is a four-storey residential building in South Surrey featuring a total of 122 one- and two-bedroom units starting at $364,900. Scheduled to complete its first phase in early 2018, presales of the site are now available.

Housing amenities

This urban community features red brick architecture with flat roofs and black wrought iron details. Prescott Commons residents have access to the private community clubhouse dubbed The Rowing Club which features an outdoor pool and spa, gym, fitness facilities, screening room and more.

Location and transit

Situated on the corner of 33rd Avenue and 152nd Street, residents with automobiles can quickly access Highway 99 to reach throughout Metro Vancouver. Alternatively, head south towards the Peace Arch Crossing for a trip to the U.S. Frequent bus service also runs along 152nd Street, Highway 99 and 32nd Avenue.

In the neighbourhood

Nature meets modern in South Surrey, where residents of Prescott Commons can reach Crescent Beach and Peace Arch Provincial park or shopping at Southpoing Exchange Mall. The Nico Wynd Golf Club is also nearby, with other options for swimming, hockey and enjoying the Fraser Downs Race track not far off either.

NEED TO KNOW

What: Prescott Commons
Developer: Polygon Homes
Builder: TBD
Designer: Polygon Homes
Location: South Surrey
Building: Four-storey residential
Sizes: Starting at 630 square feet
Model: One and two bedrooms
Pricing: Starting at $364,900
Status: Presales
Occupancy: Early 2018
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Mid-century design is going to the dogs

DOG HAUS

L.A.-based architect creates stylish doghouse

What do you do if you're an architect and you can't find just the right house for your dog? Why, you design one, of course.

That's what Rahil Taj, of Rah:Design in Los Angeles, Calif., did when his fiancée's pooch needed somewhere tasteful to relax. Taj explains, "We couldn't find anything that fit our esthetics. We like modern, custom things and as a furniture designer I have high standards when it comes to that."

So Taj spent nine months creating a house — the MDK9 Dog Haus — that was not only impressive but could be flat-packaged for shipping.

His fiancée's dog is an English bulldog, Guinness, 7, who weighs 120 pounds and is 20 inches tall. Taj says figuring out the size of the house was a challenge.

Stella, a Boston terrier/Frenchie mix, enjoys her mid-century home for dogs created by Rahil Taj that entertains both animals and guests with its clever design. CONTRIBUTED

"It can't be too big or small, and the dog needs to feel protected in the house. That's where a lot of the development comes from. It must be cool but practical and fit in people's homes, as well as be easy on the eyes in their backyards."

Taj describes the MDK9 as a mid-century modern design. "It basically follows esthetics I've incorporated into my furniture design pieces and architecture drawings. It's a sleek, streamlined design — not your run-of-the-mill domed design you usually see in dog houses. It has a slanted roof, which is not just a design detail but functional — you want water to slide off the roof."

The house is waterproof inside and out, and the screen on the side is detachable, so the house has good air circulation and is easy to clean. Taj is working on something for the front entrance, to create a lockable crate.

The MDK9 is made of concrete, Brazilian teak and powder-coated steel. Smaller models are easy to bring indoors. Houses can be made larger or in a different colour, as well. as well.

The Mini version, which measures 46-by-30-by-30 inches, can accommodate dachshunds, Chihuahuas and small terriers.

The Large version, which measures 76-by-40-by-36 inches, can fit Great Danes and golden retrievers.

The home includes a special dog bed (waterproof and easy to clean) crafted by a company called Jax & BonesJax & Bones. Another company, Modern House Numbers, makes letters from aluminum for the dog houses.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PET APPROVED

Dog owner:
Lauryn Maes, who lives in Palos Verdes Estates, south of Los Angeles, bought the MDK9 for her Boston terrier/Frenchie named Stella, 1.

"Stella had a decent house prior to this one — by decent I mean it got the job done — but it was the kind of thing you'd banish to the side of the house when guests came over," says Maes.

"(The MDK9 is) mobile, so we can move it all over the yard," says Maes. "The concrete seems to stay cool on warmer days, so Stella enjoys laying directly on it when I remove the bedding to wash it. We also opted for an additional feature: ceiling lights."

Dog meter:
"She loves it," Maes says. "She still greets me excitedly when I come home, but after about 30 minutes she's back to her comfy spot."

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metro SPORTS

The Dallas Cowboys will release longtime quarterback Tony Romo on Thursday, according to an Associated Press source

BC Place set for 7s encore

RUGBY

Canadians excited to soak up energy from Vancouver fans

Damian McGrath strode into BC Place Stadium last March as head coach of Samoa, completely unaware of what the weekend would bring.

The newest stop on the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series had good ticket sales, but was being played on artificial turf in a domed venue in front of a fanbase — at least it was assumed — largely unfamiliar with the sport.

"It was a step into the unknown," said McGrath. "But it blew everyone away."

The Canada Sevens tournament returns to Vancouver on Saturday and Sunday with players, coaches, organizers and fans buoyed by last year's success.

More than 60,000 people turned out over two days in 2016, and it was announced Wednesday that 76,000 supporters are expected to go through the turnstiles this weekend.

"I don't think it's a lie to say everybody was so excited about what happened with the crowd and the way everybody was received," added McGrath, now Canada's head coach. "It was just a terrific occasion."

With shorter games and more scoring than the traditional 15-on-15 version of the sport, it seems like there's something for everyone at Canada's tournament stop. Many fans dress up in costumes, beer lines are long and there's raucous support for all of the countries involved — except when the hosts are on the pitch.

"Really looking forward to Saturday," said Nathan Hirayama, a member of the Canadian team since 2006. "It can't come soon enough, but we're just trying to not get too pumped up right now and just work and build towards the weekend."

There were a combined 272 tries and 1,694 points scored in a rapid-fire 45 games at the 2016 event.

"I missed out last year through injury so I was pretty excited to come here for the first time," said England captain Tom Mitchell. "(Teammates) said the crowd was amazing and the way the tournament went as a whole was a great spectacle.

"I'm excited to actually have a taste of it myself this time around."

Despite a 5-1 record on home soil last year, the Canadians finished ninth after a loss to Wales with no time remaining on the first day pushed them into the Bowl side of the 16-team tournament instead of the elite Cup quarter-finals.

But Canada rallied to win the consolation trophy on a late John Moonlight try and Hirayama's conversion to send the crowd home happy.

"The excitement level was massive," said Canadian captain Harry Jones. "That extra push in that France game from the fans helped.

"It's a massive bonus for us."

Canada was seventh last weekend at the Las Vegas Sevens, a second top-8 finish in the last three tour stops after back-to-back 13th-place results to open the season.

The Canadians currently sit 12th in the overall standings, but McGrath said he believes this group is capable of getting into the top half of the table by the time the 10-stop tour culminates in May.

"I've been blown away by the quality of some of the players," said the Englishman, who has only been on the job since October. "You coach against them, but you don't realize how good they are until you work with them.

"The top seven players are as good as anybody around."

With the men's 15s team sliding down the world rankings following a disastrous Americas Cup Rugby Championship, and Own the Podium cutting off its funding to the men's sevens program after missing out on the Rio Olympics, Jones said the impact of weekends like these for the sport in Canada can't be overlooked.

"I think that was the coolest thing about the (2016) tournament — people who had never been involved, never seen rugby or known a rugby person said they had an amazing time," he said. "People that don't know the sport are coming in.

"It's interesting, it's fun, it's exciting." THE CANADIAN PRESS

The excitement level was massive.
Canada's Harry Jones on last year's stop at BC Place

John Moonlight's late try against France at last year's World Rugby Sevens consolation game sent the crowd at BC Place Stadium home happy. LEFT: DON MACKINNON / GETTY IMAGES. RIGHT: JEFF VINNICK / GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Bonino boosts Pens to win

Nick Bonino had a hat trick and the Pittsburgh Penguins won their third straight game with a 7-4 victory over the Winnipeg Jets on Wednesday.

Jets captain Blake Wheeler and Evgeni Malkin dropped the gloves three minutes into the game. Malkin had hit Wheeler in the head during their last meeting last month and only drew a minor interference penalty.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pelicans lose Davis to injury, game to Raptors

Jonas Valanciunas had 25 points and 13 rebounds, and the Toronto Raptors emerged with a 94-87 victory Wednesday night over a New Orleans Pelicans squad that played without all-star forward Anthony Davis during the second half.

The Pelicans announced that Davis hurt his left wrist, an injury that appeared to occur when he caught his wrist on the front rim and then crashed to the court.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ex-NFLer Young signing with Riders: Agent

It seems Vince Young will make his football comeback in Canada.

Young's agent, Leigh Steinberg, tweeted Wednesday he was en route to Regina to finalize a deal between his client and the Saskatchewan Roughriders.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Barca pull off the impossible

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Neymar sparks absurd, historic comeback as PSG crumble

Barcelona completed the biggest comeback in Champions League history by beating Paris Saint-Germain 6-1 to reach the quarterfinals on Wednesday, scoring the decisive goal of a 6-5 victory on aggregate in the fifth minute of stoppage time.

With Neymar on inspired form, Barcelona scored three times from the 88th minute. Sergi Roberto's dramatic late goal set up by Neymar sent the Nou Camp fans wild and made their team the first to overturn a 4-0 first-leg defeat since the Champions League format started in the 1992-93 season.

PSG seemed certain to go through after Edinson Cavani scored a valuable away goal following Barcelona's opening salvo of three goals, which included a Lionel Messi penalty.

Barcelona needed three more goals to advance, and the feat seemed impossible even after Neymar found the net with a free kick in the 88th minute.

But the Brazil striker converted a penalty in the 90th and then followed up with a chipped pass for substitute Roberto to steer the ball beyond goalkeeper Kevin Trapp in injury time.

"This is the best match of my career," Neymar said. "It was difficult after the match in Paris. For the past week I have been crazy to play this match, and we have made history. I just told Sergi Roberto to get in the area, that he would score a goal."

The winner sent Barcelona's bench flooding onto the pitch as the stadium celebrated the club's 10th consecutive appearance in the quarterfinals. Coach Luis Enrique, who announced he would leave the club this summer, embraced Neymar and any other player or staff member within reach.

> **This is the best match of my career.**
> Neymar

"What defines this victory is faith, the faith of my players, the faith of our fans. No child or adult here at Camp Nou will forget this night," Luis Enrique said.

"I have never seen a better communion between team and supporters. We overran them, they didn't cross midfield." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEDNESDAY In Spain

BARCA	PSG
6	1

Aggregate score 6-5

Neymar and manager Luis Enrique celebrate on Wednesday at Camp Nou in Barcelona.. JOSEP LAGO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Netherlands edge Taiwan at World Baseball Classic

Jurickson Profar drew a bases-loaded walk in the bottom of the ninth inning to lift the Netherlands to a 6-5 win over Taiwan on Wednesday in the World Baseball Classic.

The Netherlands improved to 2-0 in Pool A and advanced to the second round in Tokyo along with Israel, which also has a 2-0 record. South Korea and Taiwan failed to advance to the second round. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bettman keen to keep Coyotes in Arizona

Fans of a potential NHL team in Quebec City should stand down for now.

While NHL commissioner Gary Bettman stressed that the Arizona Coyotes did not have a future in Glendale, he also said the league was committed to the team remaining in Arizona. In other words, the Coyotes aren't moving anywhere but within the boundaries of their current home in the desert. "We have not given up on that market," said Bettman. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLS

Whitecaps bring back midfielder Mezquida

The Vancouver Whitecaps have re-signed attacking midfielder Nicolas Mezquida to a new contract through 2018, with a club option for 2019.

Mezquida had six goals and one assist in all competitions for the Major League Soccer club last season while starting in 22 of his 34 total appearances. He has nine goals and four assists since joining the Whitecaps in 2014.

"We're delighted to re-sign Nico to a new contract," Whitecaps FC head coach Carl Robinson said in a statement.

"His personality and work rate is infectious. He has been a key member of our squad and has continued to grow and mature during his time with us. Nico will continue to be a big part of our club moving forward." THE CANADIAN PRESS

FREESTYLE SKIING

Canucks upset with bronze-medal runs

Mikael Kingsbury whacked his pole against his ski in frustration after his final moguls run at the world freestyle ski and snowboard championships Wednesday.

The 24-year-old from Deux-Montagnes, Que., knew bobbling the landing on his second jump would cost him. Kingsbury settled for bronze behind winner Ikuma Horishima of Japan and runner-up Benjamin Cavet of France. "I felt just a little bit stiff before the bottom air and I got into the jump a bit faster than I expected," Kingsbury told reporters on a conference call later in the day.

"I tried my best to land in the best position that I could, but I was farther than I expected and I landed pretty deep. It cost me a lot."

Reigning Olympic women's champion Justine Dufour-Lapointe of Montreal took bronze in women's singles. Britteny Cox of Australia won gold followed by silver medallist Perrine Laffont of France.

Dufour-Lapointe didn't make any glaring mistakes, but the 22-year-old didn't earn enough points from the judges to finish higher on the podium

"I'm a little bit disappointed with my result because of course I wanted to win," she said. "I won't lie to you about that, but in the same way, but it's a sport that's judged." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mikael Kingsbury GETTY IMAGES

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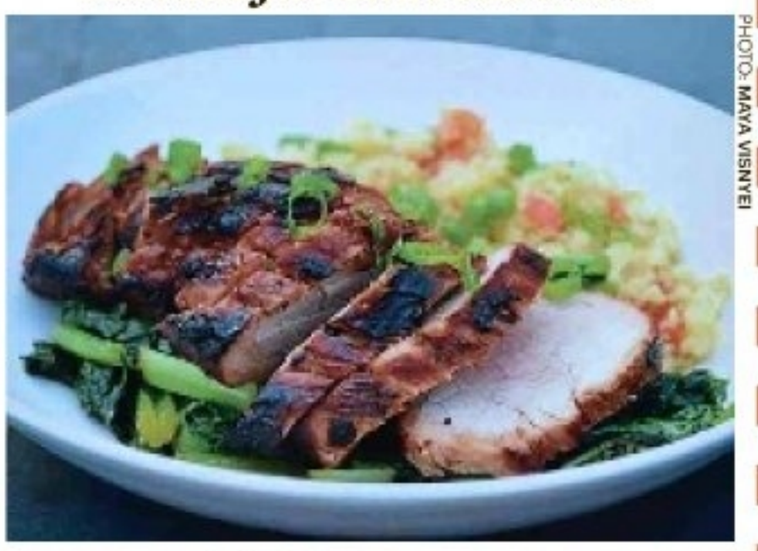

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Put down that takeout menu and impress your family with this intensely flavoured dinner instead.

Ready in 1 hour 35 minutes
Prep time: 1 hour 15 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Serves: 4

Ingredients
- 1 1/2 Tbsps honey
- 1 1/2 Tbsps hoisin sauce
- 1 1/2 Tbsps soy sauce
- 1 Tbsp Chinese wine (dry sherry can be substituted)
- 1 tsp white pepper
- 1/2 tsp five-spice powder
- 1/2 tsp sesame oil
- 1kg/2¼ lbs pork tenderloin
- 3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 1/2 Tbsps vegetable oil

Directions

1. In a small saucepan, add honey, hoisin, soy sauce, Chinese wine, pepper, five-spice and sesame oil. Whisk the ingredients together over medium heat. Cook until it thickens and becomes sticky. Let the sauce cool completely.

2. Add the sauce, vegetable oil, and chopped garlic to the pork and marinate it the fridge for an hour and up to overnight.

3. To cook, barbecue for about 6 to 8 minutes on each side, or place on the highest rack of the oven set on broiler for 6 to 8 minutes on each side.

4. Let the meat rest for 15 minutes or so before slicing. Serve over rice and sautéed greens.

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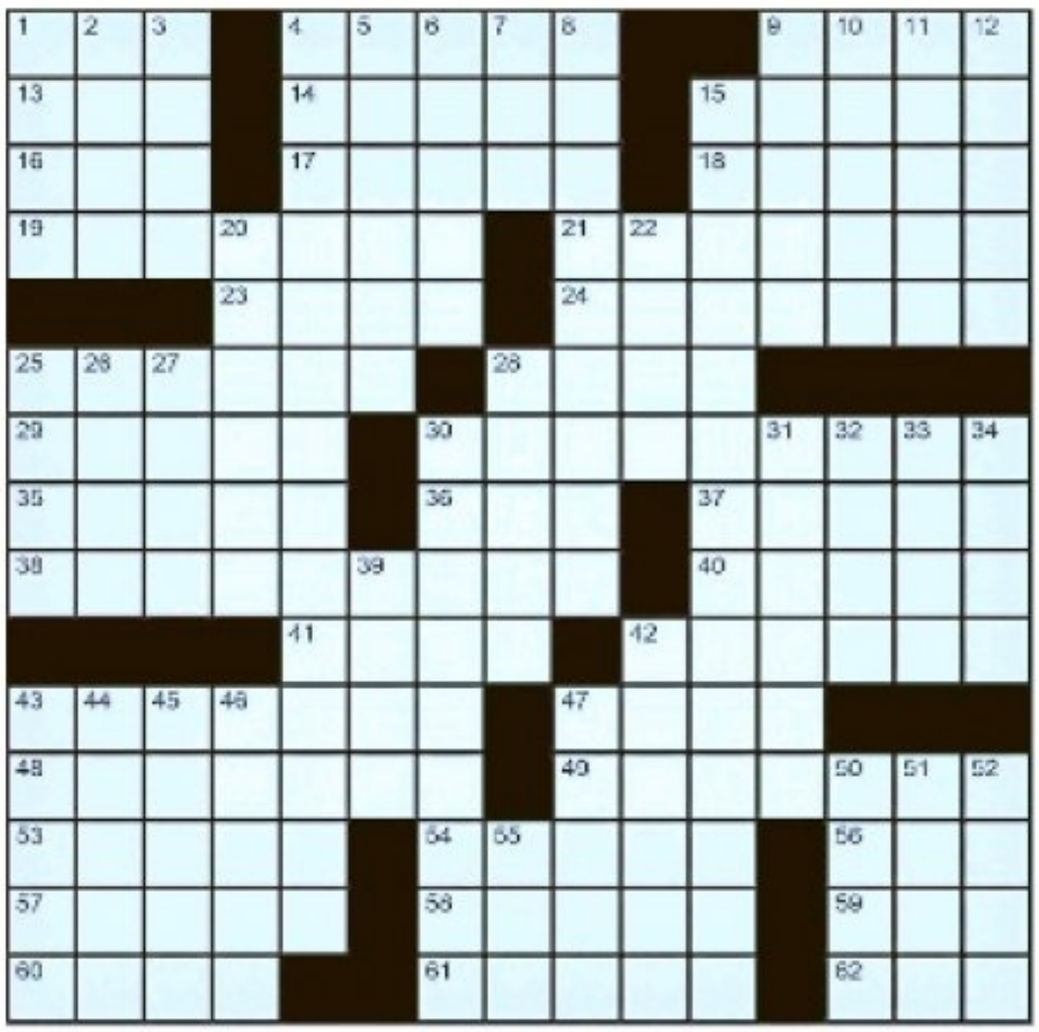
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Moo __ pork (Chinese cuisine dish)
4. Rapidly
9. Catherine of "The Dukes of Hazzard"
13. Arcade Fire frontman Mr. Butler
14. Mervyn __, "Madame Curie" (1943) director
15. "__ I Love You" by The Doors
16. Toward the ship's stern
17. "Rawhide" by Frankie __
18. Graceland legend
19. Life story movies
21. Iridescent
23. "What's Hecuba to him __ __ to Hecuba..." - Hamlet
24. Invention documents
25. Funny actor Jim born in Newmarket, Ontario
28. "2 Broke Girls" star Ms. Behrs
29. "You Bring Me Joy" singer Ms. Baker
30. Cosmetic dentists at times
35. Competitor
36. Possessor's contraction
37. Fix came-undone shoelaces
38. Little brewski: 2 wds.
40. Winnebago enjoyers, informally
41. Bellow
42. Discontinues
43. Mishandle: 2 wds.
47. Crevice-filling wedge
48. Mott's beverage
49. Leonard Nimoy's iconic character: 2 wds.
53. Poe's bird
54. Manner of speaking
56. Fried dish need
57. Tennis great Chris
58. Gloria Swanson role, __ Desmond
59. Unexplained sky sighting, perhaps
60. Moray-like
61. Subway 'currency'
62. Place down

DOWN
1. Q-Tip, for one
2. Sound system sort, shortly
3. Poetic preposition
4. Alanis Morissette song that goes "My sweater is on backwards and inside out.": 4 wds.
5. Just great
6. Originate
7. Pas pro
8. Surprising revelation: 2 wds.
9. Quebec, 'La __ Province'
10. __ and the Chipmunks
11. Mr. Eastwood
12. Giving-plants-water needs
15. Montreal-born Founder/CEO of Canadian bookstore chain Indigo: 2 wds.
20. Web gateway
22. Hors d'oeuvre spread
25. 1979: "Let's Go" by The __
26. Cartooning, for short
27. Kentucky Derby winner in 1972, __ Ridge
28. Edging choice for granite countertops
30. Perspective
31. Overhaul
32. Quebec 'summers'
33. Juste pour __ (Montreal comedy festival)
34. Legis. meeting
39. Concerning, cute-style
42. 1950s car trimming
43. Loose rock at a cliff's base
44. Percussion stick
45. "Bolero" composer Maurice
46. Beauty tool, with Board
47. Gloater's grin
50. "Mr. Holland's __" (1995)
51. __ au lait
52. Nautical mile
55. Scooby-__

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Today you want to get to the bottom of something. You want to solve a mystery or find a solution to a problem.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
This is a powerful day to address a group and tell them your ideas. It's quite likely that you'll want to introduce ideas that will improve things for everyone.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Today you might encounter a strong boss or a parent in an intense and purposeful way. Someone wants to shake things up in order to make them better.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Discussions about religion, politics or racial issues will be intense and powerful today. Don't get too carried away. Remember to maintain a common-sense approach to things.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You might see ways to improve how you handle your debt or how you deal with a bank. You also might see a better way to discuss an inheritance or deal with shared property.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Be careful during discussions with others today, because people are tempted to give someone a "makeover." (Nobody really likes this.)

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Act on your ideas about introducing reform or improvements to your job. Meanwhile, you might have other ideas about how to improve your health.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You might be concerned with the education or welfare of children today. If so, you want to help them. Others might be concerned about making improvements in the entertainment world or the hospitality industry.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
During a discussion with a parent or a family member, you might discover a better approach for improving your home, or possibly even a familial relationship. See what you can do.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Your style of communicating today is so persuasive that you will be successful if you sell, market, teach, act or write for a living. No one will be able to resist you!

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You might be a bit obsessed with something today, especially if you are shopping. You might feel as if you need to have something. Easy does it.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Take a realistic look in the mirror and ask yourself what you can do to improve your appearance and the impression you give to the world.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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3	7	2	5	4	8	6	1	9
1	4	6	7	9	2	8	3	5
9	1	5	3	6	4	2	7	8
6	2	4	8	7	9	3	5	1
7	8	3	1	2	5	9	4	6
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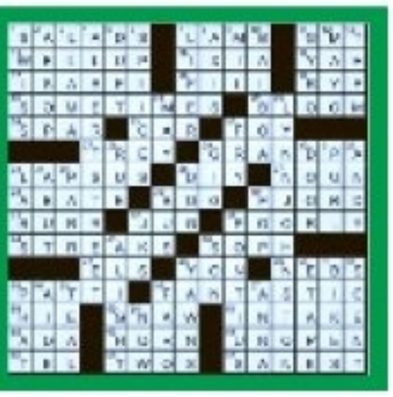

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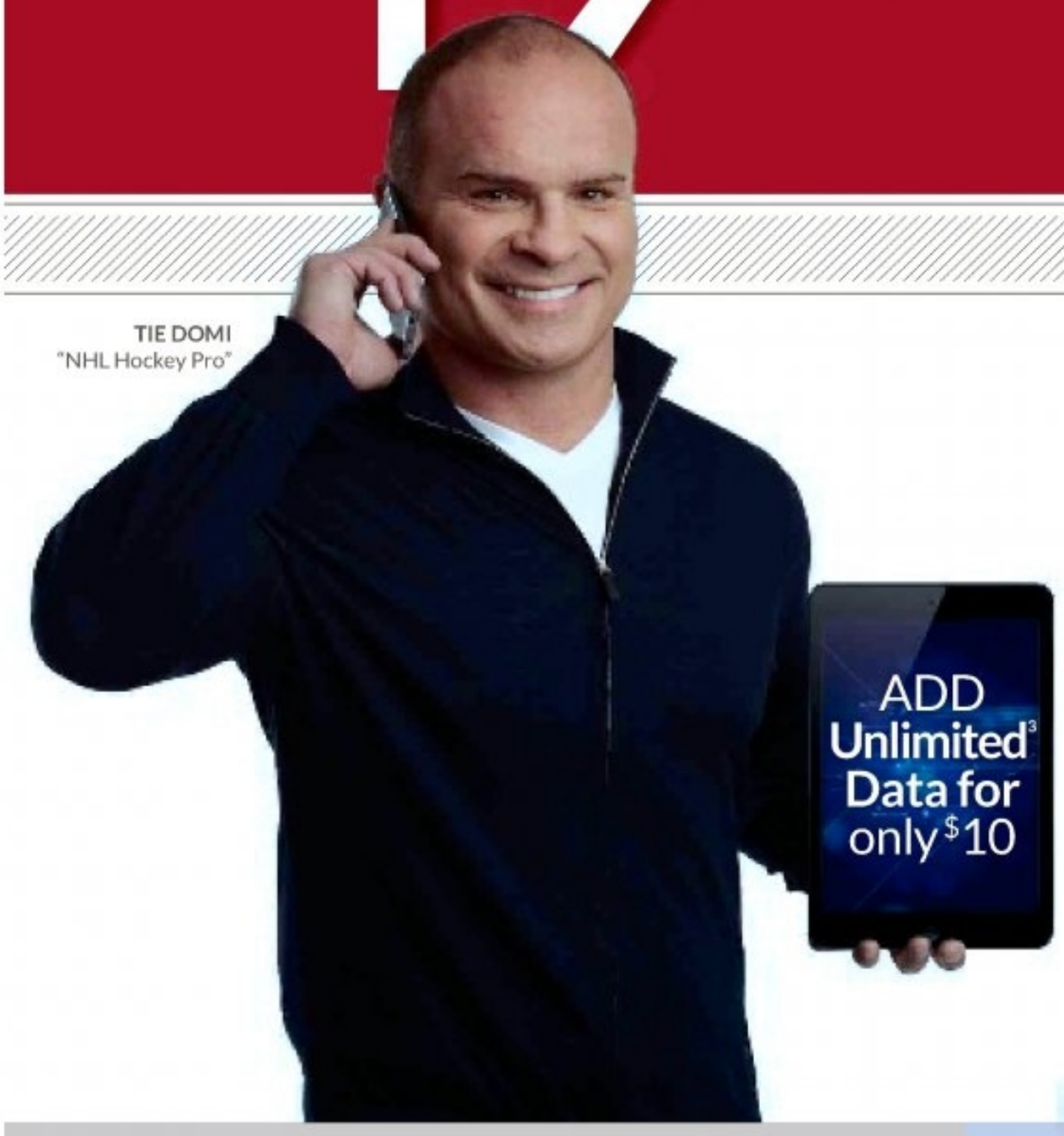
+ applicable taxes

Monthly 911 fee of $1.95 not included



Plus

6 MONTHS FREE HOME PHONE

When you transfer your number to Comwave, on a 3 year term

AND GET

FREE

Installation & Equipment Rental

over $240 in savings!

With Comwave You Get...
✓ Keep your existing phone number[1]
✓ Unlimited local calling
✓ Phone line with caller ID block
✓ Download speed - up to 6 mbps
✓ Upload speed - up to 800 kbps
✓ Data usage - 75 GB[2]

1-866-516-0231

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[1]Service not available everywhere. Monthly local loop Access Fee of $5.95 (if needed) is not included. A one-time activation fee of $59.95 applies. Shipping fees applies. [2]A rate of 25 cents per GB will be charged if usage exceeds the plan's monthly data limit. [3]Unlimited Data Usage is governed by our Fair Usage policy. VoIP 911 has certain limitations. **Details at comwave.net**.